
ANNUAL REPORT on the ENVIRONMENT

2001



Fairfax County, Virginia
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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INTRODUCTION

This year's Annual Report on the Environment has been prepared entirely by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC). Staff support for the coordination and printing of the Report has been provided by the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning.

The Annual Report on the Environment, which is an update on the state of the County's environment, serves a threefold purpose. Initially, it is intended to assist the Board of Supervisors in evaluating ongoing environmental programs and to provide the basis for proposing new programs. The document also aids public agencies in coordinating programs to jointly address environmental issues. In addition, the report is directed to citizens who are concerned with environmental issues.

The Report contains chapters on major environmental topics including: water resources; air quality; ecological resources; deer management; waste management; hazardous materials; noise, light, and visual pollution; and land use and transportation. Within each chapter are: a discussion of environmental issues; a summary of relevant data; and a discussion of applicable government programs. Where relevant, discussions of legislative issues are provided. Each chapter concludes with recommendations that identify additional actions that EQAC believes are necessary to address environmental issues.

This report covers activities affecting the environment in 2000; however, in some cases, activities from early 2001 are also included. This report is meant to serve as an update from the 2000 *Annual Report on the Environment*; the reader is advised to review the 2000 *Annual Report* if more background information about a particular topic is desired.

While the Environmental Quality Advisory Council has prepared and is responsible for this Report, contributions were made by numerous organizations. Many of the summaries provided within this report were taken verbatim from materials provided by these organizations. EQAC therefore extends its appreciation to the following organizations:

Fairfax County Department of Health
Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning
Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax County Police Department, Division of Animal Control
Fairfax County Sheriff's Office
Fairfax County Water Authority
Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee
Fairfax ReLeaf
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
(formerly the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission)
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
United States Geological Survey
Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Department of Transportation

In addition, EQAC wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the County's interagency Environmental Coordinating Committee, which coordinated the staff responses to the recommendations within EQAC's 2000 *Annual Report on the Environment*.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

V I R G I N I A

Board of Supervisors
County of Fairfax
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Madam Chairman and Members of the Board:

EQAC is pleased to present our 2001 Annual Report on the Environment. This report covers 2000, but also includes significant actions from 2001 that could impact EQAC's comments and recommendations.

Until several years ago, EQAC's Annual Reports noted the fragmentation of environmental activities among the County's agencies and recommended a position be established to coordinate these activities. The Board of Supervisors did respond to this recommendation and created an Environmental Coordinator position, reporting to the Deputy County Executive. As a result, environmental activities have been less fragmented for the last few years. We now see the County staff taking another step to improving this coordination with the formation and subsequent actions of the Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC) – consisting of the Deputy County Executive and department heads who oversee environmental activities. The ECC has already made an impact on staff activities. One example is the greatly improved staff responses to last year's EQAC recommendations. Another example is a joint meeting between EQAC and ECC, with more to come. The actions of the Environmental Coordinator and the ECC are resulting in improvements in the County's environmental policies, and we congratulate the Board of Supervisors and County staff for their foresight in creating the position and the Committee.

EQAC reiterates two recommendations as our top priorities. The first is to develop and implement a Countywide Natural Resource Management Plan. The only active progress occurring in this area is by the Fairfax County Park Authority, but the Park Authority only provides a shoestring budget and the effort only covers a part of the County. We note that the Park Authority has been working on a Natural Resource Management Plan for years, without completing the plan. EQAC believes that inadequate resources are being devoted to the development of this plan, hence the slow progress. EQAC urges the Park Authority to increase resources and complete the plan. As part of the staff response to last year's EQAC recommendations, an ad hoc team consisting of technical staff of several County agencies has begun to meet to develop options and recommendations for a Countywide natural resources management plan for ECC consideration. EQAC supports this action and urges a rapid process that results in the Board of Supervisors starting a Countywide program to develop and implement such a plan.

Board of Supervisors
Continued

The second recommendation deals with the County's streams. Again we continue to recommend that the County create a Countywide Stream Protection Plan. Your funding of a two-year baseline study of the County's stream valleys, which resulted in the *Stream Protection Strategy* (SPS) report, was a necessary start. However, the County needs to follow this study very rapidly with an overall strategy that sets goals for each watershed. Furthermore, the County needs to establish programs for restoration and preservation of the stream valleys based on these goals as fast as possible. EQAC commends the Board of Supervisors for the efforts you are making to protect and restore local streams.

The problem is that without a funding source, nothing can happen. EQAC is concerned about the ability of the County to fund needed programs to protect and restore our streams. While the Board of Supervisors has provided funds for follow-on programs to the SPS, a secure funding source does not exist. Furthermore, EQAC is concerned that, with today's economic slowdown, environmental programs such as this will be cut. Toward that end, EQAC continues to recommend the speedy adoption of a Stormwater Utility Program – not more studies. Additionally, the County must change the Public Facilities Manual to allow environmentally friendly techniques in stormwater management and stream restoration. Speed is essential in acting on, and implementing, a Countywide Stream Protection Plan. Our streams have inadequate protection and continue to deteriorate.

Each chapter of this year's Annual Report contains the remainder of our suggestions. We urge your consideration and action on each of these.

On 27 July 2001, EQAC sent the Board of Supervisors a letter concerning some of the Board's land acquisitions. In this letter, EQAC expressed support for the efforts that the Board has taken over the past year to acquire and protect open space, and we encouraged the Board to continue to take advantage of opportunities to acquire park land as these opportunities present themselves. Much of the land that the Board has acquired has significant environmental value, and it is the view of EQAC that the acquisition of this land reflects considerable foresight on the part of the Board. EQAC commends the Board of Supervisors for these actions.

As we have done in the past, we would like to commend the outstanding efforts of some groups whose actions enhance the environmental quality in Fairfax County. We have already mentioned the Park Authority staff – a few people, working with a very small budget. The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) continues to make their efforts felt in many environmental areas. Fairfax ReLeaf continues to promote tree preservation and tree replacement programs. Volunteers in the Adopt-A-Stream Program and the Audubon Naturalist Society (and the NVSWCD) provide valuable data on water quality. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) is pursuing and obtaining easements on privately owned environmentally sensitive land. EQAC is especially pleased that the Board of Supervisors has entered into a public-private partnership with NVCT.

Board of Supervisors
Continued

EQAC thanks all these hard working groups, as well as many others we haven't mentioned, for their efforts in advancing environmental quality in Fairfax County.

Members of EQAC wrote this report; however, we obtained most of the information contained therein from many County agencies. We thank these agencies for their assistance. EQAC would also like to acknowledge the contributions of two individuals. First, Noel Kaplan of the Environment and Development Review Branch, Department of Planning and Zoning. Noel provides County staff support to EQAC. This means he sets up every EQAC meeting, attends every EQAC meeting, follows up on actions generated from the meetings, plus coordinates the inputs and publication of the Annual Report. EQAC thanks him for his hard work and long hours in our support. Second, Kambiz Agazi, Environmental Coordinator, Office of the County Executive. Kambiz provides full support to EQAC, attending every EQAC meeting and providing advice and suggestions. EQAC thanks him for his valuable contributions.

We would like to commend the Board's actions, as noted in this report, in advancing the environmental quality of the County. However, much more needs to be done. Your leadership continues to be essential to advancing environmental quality in Fairfax County by preserving and protecting environmentally sensitive areas. We in EQAC will continue to provide recommendations to you on how to achieve this goal. We look forward to working with you and achieving further progress in this area.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. McLaren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "McLaren" clearly distinguishable.

Robert D. McLaren, Chairman
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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SCORECARD

Progress Report on 2000 Recommendations

I. WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC strongly recommends implementation of a Comprehensive Countywide Steam Management Program.	Over the past year, DPWES realigned several fragmented stormwater management agencies into a single line of business. DPWES completed a baseline evaluation of Fairfax County streams, reporting this in a stream assessment report (Stream Protection Strategy), and is proposing to develop watershed master plans for the entire County over five to seven years. Other monitoring programs, outside DPWES, exist and there is no coordination of these by a central body or agency.	The stream assessment report is an outstanding start. Efforts should continue to the foundation of an overall Stream Management Program. EQAC continues to emphasize this recommendation.	In process, with much to be done.
2. EQAC recommends the funding of the Stormwater Utility Program. The Program should place equal importance on environmental protection, restoration, and monitoring as compared to infrastructure improvement and maintenance. The Program should also include a Watershed Board to oversee the Program.	DPWES is responsible for a Stormwater Utility implementation strategy. A study, <i>Conceptual Plan for a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program</i> , was completed in March. DPWES proposes to develop watershed master plans over the next five to seven years. As needs are identified in these plans, DPWES will initiate a public education effort. As public awareness increases, DPWES anticipates citizen understanding and support for a Stormwater Environmental Utility will become strong.	EQAC again reiterates its comments from prior years, with emphasis added. EQAC is concerned about the slowness of the process described by DPWES, with no clear end in sight. EQAC reiterates its recommendation, strongly urging the Board of Supervisors to <u>speedily</u> adopt a Stormwater Environmental Utility Program. Without this program, EQAC is concerned about the continued availability of funds for a Comprehensive Countywide Steam Management Program.	No.

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
3. EQAC recommends posting of County streams with health warnings for fecal coliform bacteria where appropriate. Additionally, EQAC recommends a County study to identify the source of these bacteria and the implementation of a plan to remove the source of this pollution.	No method of continuous sampling exists that would be appropriate to monitor all portions of all streams. Posting or not posting a sign would not give an accurate assessment of a stream's potential danger at any given time due to fluctuations of fecal coliform counts in the streams. The Health Department continues to work with County, State, and Federal agencies in the development of a system to test for and identify fecal coliform sources in the streams. The Health Department issues a general advisory to avoid contact with any open body of water where activities could cause ingestion of water or contamination of an open wound. This general advisory is disseminated to the public by several methods. The Office of Public Affairs, with the Health Department, will be developing a public education program.	At present, the public is unaware of the potential dangers posed by elevated fecal coliform bacteria counts in the County's streams -- and this situation needs to be corrected. EQAC feels that posting is appropriate, but a very vigorous public awareness campaign could also work. The important point is that the public needs to be informed of this potential public health problem.	Not yet, but the proposed public education program may be adequate.
4. EQAC recommends a review of the County's regulations and the Public Facilities Manual (PFM), and a review of the sequence of waiver determinations to see if they can be altered to increase protection of the County's streams.	The first part of the recommendation, review of regulations and the PFM, is being addressed. County staff is reviewing these to identify impediments to Low Impact Development and will report findings to the Board of Supervisors' Environment Committee in the Fall of 2001. The second part of the recommendation, review of waiver determinations, has been addressed. County staff concluded that changes in the timing of waiver determinations would not result in any improvements to the County's streams. However, the staff recommended that the Environmental Coordinating Committee review the special exception and waiver process and, if warranted, prepare specific recommendations for improvement.	EQAC is pleased that progress is being made, and waits to see what recommendations for improvements will come forth. However, EQAC still has concerns about which structures and requirements are effective and working well in what conditions in Fairfax County and will recommend that data be collected to evaluate how well waivers and PFM facilities are working.	In process.

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
5. EQAC recommends an accounting of all costs, by both County and private individuals and entities, spent to counter the effects of siltation and erosion in County streams.	The County does not require the reporting of such costs from private entities. Accounting for County costs would require the development of a methodology that doesn't exist today. Staff recommends, as an alternative, that the costs of various approaches be developed as part of the process of conducting and implementing watershed master plans.	EQAC believes that this recommendation should be followed in order to assess the cost of not moving forward with an overall watershed protection and stream bank stabilization program.	No.
6. EQAC commends the Board of Supervisors in hiring addition inspectors, and providing for training, to handle construction site inspection responsibilities. EQAC recommends continued monitoring of complaints to determine if the strengthened inspection function results in a decline of violations and complaints.	DPWES is developing metrics to evaluate the levels of performance by inspectors and is undertaking additional training.	EQAC is pleased with the progress that has been made in this area. EQAC will continue to monitor progress and continues to recommend that the County monitor complaints.	In process.

II. AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends that the County take steps to integrate air quality planning needs more directly into the County planning process.	The County has a telecommuting program and is active in regional efforts to increase telecommuting efforts. Further, the County's Department of Transportation (DOT) is involved in a number of efforts that support the use of transit and reduction of motor vehicle trips. DOT is also actively involved in the development review process and seeks commitments from developers, where appropriate, for traffic reduction and mitigation measures. In 1989, DPZ evaluated air quality impacts for broad land use concepts and possible transportation systems as part of the "Fairfax Planning Horizons" process.	The County has, and does, include air quality information in some aspects of the planning process. However, EQAC is not aware of any direct action taken to address our concerns. Until additional staffing occurs, the County will continue to struggle with circumstances that are gradually slipping out of the County's control.	Partially.
2. EQAC recommends that the County take a hard look at the development of "smart growth" strategies for improving air quality in the County.	It is staff's view that this is a worthy endeavor and should be done. A new air quality planner position would be beneficial in doing this. The Planning Commission, the Transportation Advisory Committee, and EQAC may wish to create a joint subcommittee to discuss in more detail EQAC's concerns, philosophy, and recommendations.	The County must develop its own capability to systematically evaluate air quality compliance needs and address them. "Smart growth" is one strategy, other options may exist. EQAC agrees with staff that the County should heighten its focus on air quality planning needs. EQAC would be pleased to participate in further discussions to clarify its concerns and recommendations.	No.

Air Quality Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3. EQAC recommends that the County follow up its increase in representation on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) by considering the need for more comprehensive ongoing review and reporting on vital issues of concern to air quality planning.</p>	<p>The Health Department does have membership on the Technical Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the MWAQC. However, due to limited staff resources, it has been difficult for the Health Department to stay current with all air quality monitoring, enforcement, control strategies, and compliance issues. Therefore, current County efforts with respect to regional air quality planning issue fall short of the level of effort recommended by EQAC. A new air quality planner position would be beneficial in this area.</p>	<p>EQAC notes that over a period of years, the County's manpower in air quality monitoring, enforcement, and planning has been reduced. As the staff's reply notes, the current manpower does not allow the level of effort in air quality planning that EQAC feels is needed. This situation needs to be corrected.</p>	<p>No.</p>

III. ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Ecological Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends that the County BOS develop and implement a Countywide Natural Resource Management Plan. Two tasks should be done first: complete a Countywide Baseline Natural Resource Inventory and adopt a unified Natural Resource Conservation Policy. The BOS should reinstate funding for the Ecological Resources Inventory Committee.	The County has ecological resource guidance within its <u>Policy Plan</u> and the Park Authority's <u>Park Comprehensive Plan</u> contains guidance regarding natural resource preservation. The Park Authority is in the process of creating a Natural Resource Management Plan for parklands. An ad hoc team of technical staff of several County agencies has begun to develop options and recommendations for a Countywide natural resources plan and a revised ecological resources inventory. This ad hoc team will report to the Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC) in 2001. The Park Authority staff, with assistance from GIS staff, have been investigating methodologies and resources needed for natural resource inventories.	As noted in earlier Annual Reports on the Environment, EQAC commends the Park Authority and fully supports its efforts. EQAC is pleased to see that County staff is addressing this recommendation, with options and recommendations to go to the ECC. However, the Park Authority has been working on a Natural Resource Management Plan for years, without completing the plan. EQAC believes that inadequate resources are being devoted to the development of this plan, hence the slow progress. EQAC urges the Park Authority to increase resources and complete the plan.	Some progress, but much more needs to be done.
2. EQAC recommends that the County BOS emphasize public-private partnerships that use private actions such as land purchases and easements to protect forests and other natural resources.	On October 30, 2000, County staff recommended that the Board of Supervisors form a public-private partnership with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT). A memorandum of understanding to this effect has been developed and signed.	EQAC is pleased that a public-private partnership now exists between Fairfax County and NVCT. EQAC encourages full support to this partnership and an aggressive program aimed at protecting environmentally sensitive land through purchases and easements.	Yes. EQAC will monitor to determine the success of the program.

IV. DEER MANAGEMENT IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue to implement and monitor the comprehensive deer management program as set forth in the November, 1998 Integrated Deer Management Plan.	In the fall of 2000, 17 parks were selected as potential sites for deer herd reduction. Infrared activated cameras are now being used to assess deer population densities and are proving to be a valuable tool. An effort was made to move the program from dealing with "hotspots" to a more comprehensive approach, allowing control efforts to be initiated at an earlier stage (and preventing natural areas being subjected to the level of damage seen at some larger parks).	EQAC notes that actions taken to date are starting to address the problem, but the results are a long way from restoring natural areas to the former levels of biodiversity. EQAC encourages the County to reduce the deer population so that former levels of biodiversity can be restored.	Partially.
2. EQAC strongly endorses ongoing public input into the deer management plan.	The Deer Management Committee, reconvened in 1999, met again in the fall of 2000 to review and comment on the results of management efforts and on staff recommendations for the coming season. Comments were sought by means of a questionnaire mailed to a sample of households near parkland. The County web page devoted to deer management issues has been updated and expanded.	These efforts provide the opportunity for public input and should continue.	Yes.

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
3. EQAC believes the deer management program must address problems of small private property owners.	It has become routine procedure to inform citizens of options allowed under law. The County Deer Management web page links to additional sources for information on these programs. In one situation, the County assisted a private property owner in acquiring a special permit from the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries to allow a hunt on his property the same day that a managed hunt was being done on adjacent parkland. Fairfax County has and will continue to work with private landowners who control property adjacent to public lands to develop and coordinate deer management programs.	EQAC agrees that the County's role is to make the landowners aware of actions they can take to solve deer problems on their properties. Fairfax County needs to work with all property owners with deer management problems, not just those adjacent to public lands.	Well along.
4. EQAC believes the management program must accomplish: (1) immediate, sustained reduction of the deer population; (2) ongoing monitoring of availability of methods for maintaining population limits; and (3) consideration of development and its effects on ecosystem health and biodiversity.	Managed hunts, sharpshooting, and private/public management partnerships combine to apply the necessary control pressure to first stabilize and then reduce deer herds. Fairfax County continues to monitor developments and progress on non-lethal methods of deer herd control such as immunocontraception. However, this method will not be available as a management tool for at least 10 years. Fairfax County has established a Natural Resources Management Plan Team to explore possible efforts to address the effects of development on the County's ecological resources through the development of a Natural Resources Management Plan.	While programs have started, and have achieved some successes, EQAC believes the programs must accomplish the immediate, sustained reduction of deer population. The present programs have not accomplished this.	Programs underway.
5. EQAC recommends the Board of Supervisors continue to provide for a vigorous and enhanced program of public education.	Educational efforts have been underway since the inception of the Fairfax County Integrated Deer Management Plan. While a wide variety of mediums for information dispersal have been used, additional means are being explored -- including a better use of the County's cable TV. The Fairfax County Deer Management web page provides information and a new brochure (Deer Management in Fairfax County) has been distributed.	EQAC commends the Staff for its public education efforts, noting that these efforts must continue.	Yes.

V. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC is concerned about being able to meet minimum waste tonnage requirements at the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF) and the resulting impact on recycling programs. EQAC recommends: (1) external no cost assistance in the recycling programs; (2) a full-time marketer position to obtain contracts for waste; and (3) examine costs and benefits associated with burning renewable recyclables.	Staff works with companies to promote purchases of recycled products from businesses in the County. Staff is also involved in efforts to promote recycling information for companies involved in waste management in the County and communicates with businesses impacted by recycling initiatives. DPWES is examining developing a more active citizen volunteer program. The E/RRF is currently receiving sufficient waste to meet contractual requirements, with this year's waste expected to exceed last year's by over one million tons. Fairfax County has modified Chapter 109, Code of Fairfax County, to give the Director, DPWES, the ability to remove recycling requirements from any commodity. Therefore, if commitments require the County to use the E/RRF to burn recyclables, the County has that flexibility.	Staff is to be commended in its efforts to ensure that minimum waste tonnage requirements are being met. While tonnage shortfalls seem to no longer be a problem, the situation can change. EQAC suggests that the Board of Supervisors continue to place a high priority on identifying and securing alternate waste sources to ensure that minimum waste tonnage requirements are met. EQAC continues to oppose the use of surplus funding to subsidize tipping fees. This approach is not sustainable.	Yes.

VI. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC strongly encourages the Board of Supervisors to reinstate the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) program in compliance with State requirements.	County staff is in the process of contracting for a waste disposal firm which will provide all facets of this service, including acceptance, handling, and disposal of hazardous wastes from CESQG sources. The contractor would contract directly with the generator, with the County backing the program through public notices.	EQAC continues to recommend the reinstatement of the CESQG program. EQAC will monitor the proposed staff solution to ensure that a successful CESQG program results.	In progress.
2. EQAC supports ongoing public education on how to properly dispose of household/residential, industrial, and commercial hazardous wastes.	Staff efforts include brochures and literature, automated telephone information numbers, and the County web site. However, funding for a more expansive outreach/education program is not available.	EQAC recommends a more aggressive program. A suggestion would be a "How To" chart that can be easily read and kept for continued reference.	Partially complete.

VII. NOISE, LIGHT POLLUTION, AND VISUAL POLLUTION

Noise, Light and Visual Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends the Board of Supervisors continue to monitor the FAA TRACON consolidation project.	It is the staff's view that the County should continue to monitor this issue. A draft EIS for airspace redesign is expected in 2001.	County staff is monitoring this issue and intends to continue. EQAC will review the EIS when released and provide comments.	In progress.
2. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors investigate and establish zoning and noise requirements to ensure commercial helicopter service does not result in intolerable noise.	There are no provisions in either the Zoning Ordinance or the Noise Ordinance which regulate helicopter noise. This item will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for inclusion in the 2001 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program.	While the possibility of a local heliport seems to have gone away for now, the County does need the ability to regulate helicopter noise when commercial helicopters become a regular occurrence in Fairfax County.	No.
3. EQAC suggests that the Board of Supervisors carefully monitor the noise-related provisions of AIR 21.	The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) will be working closely with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Committee on Noise Abatement at National and Dulles Airports (CONANDA) on the development of the Part 150 document. This document will update noise contour information and the assumptions on the mix of aircraft in the fleet that flies in and out of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The study will also allow for the reconsideration of noise abatement procedures. An advisory committee, under CONANDA, will include elected officials from Fairfax County. A technical committee, under CONANDA, will include employees of Fairfax County. The County staff's view is that the County should participate on CONANDA committees to the fullest extent possible.	EQAC agrees with staff that the County should participate on the CONANDA committees to the fullest extent possible.	In progress.

Noise, Light and Visual Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
4. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct that future lighting fixtures follow the recommendation of the Illuminating Society of North America (light be directed down).	The Board of Supervisors, on January 24, 2000, approved changes to the Citizen Petition Street Light Program Policy to reduce light pollution from County streetlights. Under the changed policy, new streetlights will use "cutoff" optics that totally direct light downward. However, semi-cutoff cobra head fixtures may be used where cutoff installations are not economically practical to meet lighting standards. An amendment to the PFM will address this change. Colonial style fixtures will continue to be used in residential areas (not along major highways as was mistakenly reported in last year's scorecard). Older lights will not be retrofitted due to high costs, but they will be replaced with cutoff cobra head fixtures where possible. The Board of Supervisors included the review of glare performance standards on the 2000 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program. County staff is reviewing the issue and will have recommendations for the Board of Supervisors in six to nine months (in 2002).	This is an improvement over last year's staff response. EQAC will review staff recommendations and comment further in future Annual Reports on the Environment. EQAC does note that Tucson, Arizona, has drastically reduced light pollution and believes that Fairfax County can do the same.	Limited progress.
5. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors work with VDOT and elected officials to replace existing roadway lighting fixtures with those in the previous recommendation.	There are no plans to retrofit existing systems with new fixtures. All new projects being designed by VDOT are adhering to the more stringent criteria for lighting with regard to light pollution and glare.	Again, an improved response over last year's. However, VDOT should develop a program to replace old fixtures when they become inoperable with new full cutoff fixtures.	Limited progress.

Noise, Light and Visual Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
6. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors negotiate and execute an agreement with VDOT such that VDOT would delegate enforcement authority, including penalties, to the County regarding illegal signs in VDOT rights of way.	The new Countywide Sign Task Force, established by the Board of Supervisors, will address this recommendation.	EQAC is pleased that this recommendation is being addressed and will comment on any recommendations made by the Countywide Sign Task Force.	Some progress.
7. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors use a multimedia approach to make citizens aware of Virginia's nuisance statute (Title 48).	The new Countywide Sign Task Force, established by the Board of Supervisors, will address this recommendation. However, it may be that enforcement as recommended in Recommendation #6 above may provide for a more effective remedy.	EQAC is pleased that this recommendation is being addressed and will comment on any recommendations made by the Countywide Sign Task Force.	Some progress.
8. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the use of volunteers to remove illegal signs from public property and the right-of-way.	The new Countywide Sign Task Force, established by the Board of Supervisors, will address this recommendation. As part of the Task Force review, staff intends to coordinate with representatives of VDOT on this suggestion.	EQAC is pleased that this recommendation is being addressed and will comment on any recommendations made by the Countywide Sign Task Force.	Some progress.

Noise, Light and Visual Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
9. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors request the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Virginia courts to sentence non-violent offenders to assist in litter and illegal sign removal.	The Community Labor Force provides manual labor by low-risk inmates to Fairfax County. Although this initiative is expanding, its progress has been impeded by lack of capital equipment resources. Despite limited resources, the Sheriff's Office has pursued aggressive initiatives in an effort to enhance the County's community improvement efforts, including removal of illegal highway signs. The Board of Supervisors should consider requesting the Circuit Court, the General District Court, and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to use the Sheriff's Office's Community Labor Force as a sentencing alternative for non-violent offenders. This recommendation will be considered by the Countywide Sign Task Force.	EQAC agrees that the Board of Supervisors should consider requesting the Circuit Court, the General District Court, and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to use the Sheriff's Office's Community Labor Force as a sentencing alternative for non-violent offenders, and urges the Board to do so.	Some progress.
10. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the hiring of additional employees to address illegal signs.	The issue of the County entering into agreement with VDOT to enforce the State Code limitations on signs in the rights-of-way will be a major issue of discussion with the new Countywide Sign Task Force. The issue of staffing such an effort will also be discussed.	EQAC is pleased that this recommendation is being addressed and will comment on any recommendations made by the Countywide Sign Task Force.	Some progress.

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Land Use and Transportation Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. Incorporate into County planning and zoning policies: (1) Land use decisions should consider how to reduce congestion in context of growth that is dynamic, multi-cultural and inevitable; (2) The geographic effects of land use decisions should guide which communities and governments participate in decision making; (3) Land use decision over a reasonable threshold should require direct citizen involvement; (4) Staff evaluations of land use and infrastructure proposals should describe cumulative environmental impacts, full-cost pricing, and cost-effectiveness analysis of reasonable alternatives; and (5) Staff evaluations of land use and infrastructure proposals should describe relevant past performance of similar proposals.</p>	<p>Portions of EQAC's recommendations are being addressed, at least to some extent. There is considerable policy guidance within the Comprehensive Plan that supports reductions in traffic congestion. The County's Comprehensive Plan has been developed in recognition of population and employment forecasts for the County and provides a "Concept for Future Development and Land Classification System" that clearly anticipates such growth. With respect to the public participation components of EQAC's recommendation, staff would note that major land use studies incorporate substantial involvement by community task forces. Through this approach, there is direct and considerable citizen involvement within communities that may be affected by decisions based on these studies. Staff feels that there are a number of elements of EQAC's recommendation principles that are in need of clarification. Staff recommends that EQAC's recommendation be forwarded to the Planning Commission and the Transportation Advisory Committee, along with a suggestion that these groups meet with EQAC to foster an exchange of ideas regarding the matters that EQAC has raised. Given that EQAC has made another recommendation regarding planning and development issues in the Air Quality chapter, it may be appropriate for such discussions to consider both EQAC recommendations.</p>	<p>EQAC would be pleased to participate in further discussions to clarify its concerns and recommendations, and will do so in conjunction with discussion on its Air Quality recommendations.</p>	<p>In process.</p>